

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claims 1-3 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Brust et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,673,193.

Brust discloses the following in lines 27-43 of column 2:

"The invention comprises a system and method for processing a mailing consisting of a plurality of identical printed items to be grouped into bundles having an identical general address. Information as to bulk mailing centers (BMC) is accessed, which information provides an associated BMC for each group of zip codes, based generally on geographical proximity to a certain BMC. Information as to postal zones and rates to a particular zip code from the BMCs is also accessed, so that postal rates for each bundle can be calculated. Addressee information is provided to the system, including a general address having a zip code and particularized information for each addressee. The addresses should preferably be compatible with the particular bulk mailing procedures being used. Alternatively, the addresses can be screened for compatibility after being input into the system."

Brust discloses the following in lines 60-63 of column 3:

"Once the addressing and bundling operation is complete, the bundles may optionally be organized and loaded onto pallets (also known as containers) or into bags, which pallets or bags may then be transported and dropped at the BMCs."

Brust's invention deals with bulk mailing centers (BMC). The United States Postal Service defines a BMC as a highly mechanized mail processing plant that distributes standard mail and package services in piece and bulk form. The BMC are major postal facilities that also act as distribution hubs for transporting mail to destination delivery units. There are only 21 BMC in the United States and approximately 36,000 destination delivery units in the United States. The invention claimed by Applicant in claims 1-3, as amended, begins where Brust left off. Applicant creates an entry point lookup file containing a plurality of identification codes, each of

which identifies one eligible destination delivery unit United States Postal Service (USPS) postal facility so as to allow the mailer to use one of the identification codes to identify the postal entry point where the mailer drops off the mail pieces for mailing, and checking the mailing address of each mail piece to verify whether the mailing address is contained in the plurality of local ZIP codes and carrier routes associated with said postal entry point.

The USPS defines a destination delivery unit (DDU) as the delivery unit that serves the delivery address on the mail. DDU's are local postal facilities that deliver the mail to the addressee.

Claims 7-11, 13 and 14 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §1-3(a) as being unpatentable over Brust, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,673,193).

Brust does not disclose or anticipate steps b, c and d of claim 9, as amended. Steps b, c, and d read as follows:

- b) retrieving the addresses of the eligible DDU USPS postal facilities, wherein each address contains a ZIP code, a state, a city and a street;
- c) creating the plurality of identification codes, each identification code for one eligible DDU USPS postal facility based on the address thereof; and
- d) sorting the plurality of identification codes according to the state, the city and the street of the eligible DDU USPS postal facilities.

Brust does not disclose or anticipate steps d, e, and i of claim 13 as amended, which read as follows:

- d) providing a USPS Drop Ship ZIP Carrier Route File which contains a plurality of local ZIP codes and carrier routes associated with the eligible DDU USPS postal facilities, a drop site letter key, and a drop site other key;

e) retrieving from the USPS Drop Ship ZIP Carrier Route File the plurality of local ZIP codes and carrier routes eligible for DDU discounting, the drop site letter key, and the drop site other key;

i) creating a plurality of identification codes, each for one retrieved address of the eligible USPS postal facilities so that when the mailer uses an identification code to identify the eligible USPS postal facility where the mailer drops off the mail pieces for mailing, the local ZIP codes and carrier routes associated with said eligible USPS postal facility are used to check against each of the mailing addresses to determine whether said mailing address are available for DDU discounting.

In view of the above, claims 1-14, as amended, are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions, would the Examiner please call the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald Reichman
Reg. No. 26,796
Attorney of Record
Telephone (203) 924-3854

PITNEY BOWES INC.
Intellectual Property and
Technology Law Department
35 Waterview Drive
P.O. Box 3000
Shelton, CT 06484-8000

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the claims:

1. (Amended) A method to allow a mailer utilizing a data processing system to receive postal discounts for mailing at a postal entry point a plurality of mail pieces to a plurality of mailing addresses, wherein the postal discounts are provided in accordance with USPS Destination Delivery Unit (DDU) rate or discounting for mailing Periodicals and Standard Mail at a plurality of eligible USPS postal facilities, each eligible USPS postal facility associated with a plurality of local ZIP codes and carrier routes, said method comprising the steps of:
 - a) creating an entry point lookup file containing a plurality of identification codes, each of which identifies one eligible DDU USPS postal facility so as to allow the mailer to use one of the identification codes to identify the postal entry point where the mailer drops off the mail pieces for mailing;
 - b) creating a drop ship index file containing a plurality of local ZIP codes and carrier routes associated with each eligible USPS postal facility; and
 - c) checking the mailing address of each mail piece in order to verify whether the mailing address is contained in the plurality of local ZIP codes and carrier routes associated with said postal entry point.

9. (Amended) A process for creating an entry point lookup file containing a plurality of identification codes so as to allow a mailer to use one of the identification codes to identify an eligible USPS postal facility where the mailer drops off a plurality of mail pieces for mailing the mail pieces in order to receive postal discounts, wherein the postal discounts are provided in accordance with

USPS Destination Delivery Unit (DDU) rate or discounting for mailing Periodicals and Standard Mail, said process comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a USPS Drop Ship Address File, which contains a plurality of addresses of the eligible USPS postal facilities;
- b) retrieving the addresses of the eligible DDU USPS postal facilities, wherein each address contains a ZIP code, a state, a city and a street;
- c) creating the plurality of identification codes, each identification code for one eligible DDU USPS postal facility based on the address thereof; and
- d) sorting the plurality of identification codes according to the state, the city and the street of the eligible DDU USPS postal facilities.

13. (Amended) A process of creating a drop ship index file so as to allow a mailer to receive postal discounts for mailing at an eligible USPS postal facility a plurality of mail pieces to a plurality of mailing addresses, wherein the postal discounts are provided in accordance with USPS Destination Delivery Unit (DDU) rate or discounting for mailing Periodicals and Standard Mail at a plurality of eligible USPS postal facilities, wherein the drop ship index file contains a plurality of local ZIP codes and carrier routes associated with each eligible USPS postal facility, said process comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a USPS Drop Ship Address File, which contains a plurality of addresses of the eligible USPS postal facilities and a drop site key;
- b) retrieving the addresses of the eligible USPS postal facilities, wherein each address contains a ZIP code;

- c) sorting the retrieved addresses of the eligible USPS postal facilities by the drop site key;
- d) providing a USPS Drop Ship ZIP Carrier Route File which contains a plurality of local ZIP codes and carrier routes associated with the eligible DDU USPS postal facilities, a drop site letter key, and a drop site other key;
- e) retrieving from the USPS Drop Ship ZIP Carrier Route File the plurality of local ZIP codes and carrier routes eligible for DDU discounting, the drop site letter key, and the drop site other key;
- f) sorting the retrieved local ZIP codes and carrier routes by the drop site letter key;
- g) merging the retrieved addresses of the eligible USPS postal facilities as sorted in step (c) and the retrieved local ZIP codes and carrier routes as sorted in step (d);
- h) sorting the merged addresses and ZIP codes/carrier routes by the drop site other key;
- i) creating a plurality of identification codes, each for one retrieved address of the eligible USPS postal facilities so that when the mailer uses an identification code to identify the eligible USPS postal facility where the mailer drops off the mail pieces for mailing, the local ZIP codes and carrier routes associated with said eligible USPS postal facility are used to check against each of the mailing addresses to determine whether said mailing address are available for DDU discounting.